



You cannot be afraid to put your art in the world...

- David Dorfman, 2011 North Central Conference

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From the Executive Director:

Greetings from the ACDFA national office. It's always busy in the office as we approach opening conference registration. This year is busier than ever (but never too busy to hear from you with your comments or questions). For the first time in ACDFA's 38-year history, there will be 11 conferences nationwide. The exciting addition of another region should move us toward our goal of having space for all members to participate in conferences. Even with 11 regions, however, conferences will fill up quickly. Visit the website of your regional conference now so you are prepared to register when it opens in October.

ACDFA is a large and wonderful family made up of generous and talented students and faculty coming together once a year to DO DANCE. The ACDFA Board of Directors, an elected body made up of ACDFA members, is part of the bigger family. The Board convenes annually and is dedicated to overseeing the organization, creating policy, fulfilling the mission statement and guiding ACDFA into the future. This year we unexpectedly lost



two of our respected and beloved board members. (See "In Memoriam") Losing either Ed Burgess or Susan McLain would have been a tragic blow. Losing both of them is almost incomprehensible. Those of us who knew them are suffering a personal loss. ACDFA, as an organization, loses their energy and devotion, not to mention their wisdom and creativity.

Welcoming our newly created regions, Baja and West, is bittersweet. The establishment of the new regions is a great development for ACDFA and particularly for the members in the former Southwest region. It also pulls up memories of how hard Susan worked for a solution to the overcrowded Southwest region and what a great advocate she was for the schools in her region.

Perhaps the best way to honor Ed and Susan's extraordinary lives in dance generally and in ACDFA specifically is by dancing the very smartest and the very fullest in body and spirit that we can; to embrace dance with the love, passion and generosity embodied and demonstrated by Ed and Susan.

So, get out there and dance. Bring your work to the conferences and share it with this great, big, fabulous mix that makes up ACDFA. 2012, here we come!

David Dorfman

IN MEMORIAM

Within the last six months, Susan McLain and Ed Burgess' passionate voices, that reflected the spirit and mission of ACDFA with dignity and integrity, were quieted.



Ed Burgess was chair of the dance program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is believed to have peacefully passed away in his sleep. He had recently taken over the position of Regional Director for the North-Central Region, after having served on the ACDFA Board of Directors since 2008. Ed's energy was undeniable and his contributions to ACDFA and our art form resonate deeply within the people who surrounded him. His rich career and indefatigable enthusiasm for education made him a deeply admired teacher, friend, and artist. Never without a smile, Ed's thoughtful approach to life served as a cornerstone for many young minds, leaving them a legacy of kindness and generosity.



Susan McLain, dancer, choreographer and faculty member at the University of California-Long Beach for 18 years, passed away on August 5th. Susan, who energetically served ACDFA for 11 years as a board member, Southwest Regional Director and subsequently the Vice President for Nominations and Elections; was a driving force in creating a solution to what had been an enduring overpopulation problem for the Southwest region. Her tireless efforts have changed ACDFA permanently. To many, she was a voice of fairness, caring, and unadulterated joy. Susan was an advocate of dance that celebrates a vibrant future, with a sense of reverence for its past.

ACDFA honors these incredible artists. Their influence on and contributions to ACDFA are considerable and as the organizations lives on, so will a part of them.

Registering for a Conference 101:

The Basics

By now, your region's host has an open website for you to peruse. There you will find the information you need to begin planning for your trip to the conference, and the deadlines that will be here before you know it. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Register as early as you can.
- Only register for the number of participants that you are firmly committed to bringing.
- If your conference host is doing in-region priority, registration for YOUR region will open on **October 3rd, 2011**.
*Registrants will be required to input an invitation code to gain access to the registration pages. Conference hosts will email the invitation code to current institutional members during the last week of September.

*Registration for ALL conferences will open **October 17th, 2011**.

*By now, we are all aware that conferences fill up rather quickly and your registration is not complete until payment is received by the host.

* There are NO REFUNDS on registration fees!

In order to help your host run the most efficient, seamless, and exciting conference possible, please pay particular attention to the deadlines listed on the website for your region. It is critical that all schools submit program information, technical information, class descriptions, teacher bios, etc. in a timely manner. Any additional questions you have may be directed to your Conference Coordinator, or Regional Director.

What if my institutional membership has not yet been renewed?

If your ACDFA Institutional Membership is still in the process of being renewed, you should register as a member school starting either October 3rd or October 17th. Do not wait until your membership check has been processed in the national office.



Conferences 2012 : New Schools/New Visions

Check out where each region will call home for their respective conferences.



The Baja Region will be coordinated by Doris Ressler and hosted at California State University-Dominguez Hills, March 23-26, 2012.

The Central Region will be coordinated by Ruth Barnes at Missouri State University, March 21-24, 2012.

The East-Central Region will be coordinated by Shawn T. Bible and hosted at Grand Valley State University, March 7-10, 2012

The Mid-Atlantic Region will be coordinated by Suzanne Corso-Miller and hosted at James Madison University, February 29-March 4, 2012.

The New England Region will be coordinated by David Dorfman and Aimee Couture and hosted at Connecticut College, February 8-11, 2012.

The North-Central region will be coordinated by Li Chiao-Ping, and hosted at The University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 28-April 1, 2012.

The Northeast Region will be coordinated by Michele Dunleavy and hosted at Penn State University, March 2-5, 2012.

The Northwest Region will be coordinated by Benjamin Mielke and hosted at the University of Utah, March 13-16, 2012.

The South-Central Region will be coordinated by Bede Leyendecker and hosted at Texas A & M International University, February 28-March 3, 2012.

The Southeast Region will be coordinated by Jennifer La Curan and hosted at Darton College, March 31-April 3, 2012.

The West Region will be coordinated by Lori Bryhni, Heather Cooper, Gary Masters, Kim T. Davis from Modesto Jr. College and San Jose State University; being held at Modesto Jr. College, March 7-10, 2012.

How do you make the choreography look like it is being done for the first time?

- *Mark Haim, 2011 New England Conference*

National Festival



The John. F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Home to this year's National Festival

It is an even numbered year, which may mean, an election year, an Olympics year, or where AC DFA is concerned, a National Festival! This year's tentative festival dates are May 25th-27th, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in beautiful Washington, DC. This year the festival is being restructured in a way that will provide more tickets and more sharing for participants. A new model for programming was discussed at the board meeting, and pending Kennedy Center approval, will be launched this spring.

Details on the festival, obtaining tickets, and registering will be provided in the January Newsletter.

New Members



Welcome! Welcome!

AC DFA would like to recognize our newest institutional members. Below is a listing of schools (with their region in parentheses) that have joined our ranks for the 2012 conferences!

Anderson University, Anderson, IN (East-Central)
Carthage College, Kenosha, WI (North-Central)
Colby College, Waterville, ME (New England)
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA (Southeast)
Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA (Northeast)
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY (Northeast)

New Perspective



The AC DFA Mission Statement

This year, at the Board of Director's Meetings held at gorgeous Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA, the board dove into an overhaul of AC DFA's mission statement. The board thinks it is Fresh, It is Now, It is Clear, and it is so 21st Century!

The Board is enthusiastic but any changes in the Mission Statement must be voted on by the entire membership. Stay tuned for an email including the proposed Mission Statement and asking for your vote.



ACDFA's Pride and Joy: Conferences Galore in 2011– The Cliffs Notes Version!

No one will be surprised to hear that last year, ACDFA hosted 10 incredible conferences. After all, that is what we do best! The year brought new innovation, new designs, and new energy to the tried and true gatherings we enjoy each spring. Following is a quick review of the tremendous work being done all over the country.

Central Region



Nick Johnson, Renee Goforth, and Sabrina Vasquez from the Wichita State University hosted 530 participants, Andrew Palermo, Melissa Lowe, Loretta Livingston as adjudicators, and Mary-Jean Cowell, the Central Region's Regional Director. Together they brought 48 dances, five adjudication concerts, 25 informal dances, and a Gala concert to the dance hungry students. The theme of "Come Fly with Us" permeated the conference, including the final reception in an airplane hanger with a real plane. The Central Region is beautifully poised with hosts for the next four years!

East- Central Region



The University of Akron was the home for the East-Central Conference, under the direction of Neil Sapienza. They boasted a dynamic adjudication panel of Victoria Marks, Igal Perry, Camille Brown, and Regional Direction by Balinda Craig-Quijada. This conference accommodated 29 schools, 456 participants, and 58 dances both adjudicated and informal. Classes ranged from Caribbean Groove, to Floor Barre, Embodying Paradox. The folks at the University of Akron epitomize gracious hosting and impeccable organization. This region has hosts projected through 2016!

Mid-Atlantic Region



Lauren Kearns, future Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, from Elon University stepped up to the plate and opened Elon's doors to the Mid-Atlantic Region. The 430 attendees were treated to a performance by Lehrer Dance Company, multiple receptions, 41 adjudicated dances, 13 informal pieces, and the wisdom of adjudicators Claire Porter, David Parker, and Gabri Christa. Elizabeth Lowe Ahearn was the Regional Director in attendance. This conference brought extra attention to its carbon footprint by using all local vendors, among other practices. Mid-Atlantic schools are enjoying the luxury of confirmed and projected host schools for three years.

North Central Region



Snowy Minnesota welcomed the North Central Region; more specifically, St. Olaf College and former ACDFA Board Member, Heather Klopchin. The late Ed Burgess, acted as Regional Director during the conference. David Dorfman, Nicole Stanton, and Keith Johnson expertly adjudicated 37 dances and offered master classes to the 469 participants. In addition to 15 informal pieces, receptions, great food, and gorgeous facilities, the conference presented an opening night dance offering from some of the state's finest dance companies. Following suit with ready and willing hosts, the North Central region is secure through 2015.

New England Region



William Seigh, ACDFA's beloved past President, welcomed 407 participants to Keene State College. The New England Conference presented a who's who of contemporary dance with an opening concert by Monica Bill Barnes, and a closing concert of work by, Mark Haim, Lisa Race, Edisa Weeks, and David Dorfman, to name a few! There were 40 adjudicated dances, 13 informal pieces, receptions, belly-dance classes, dance for film screenings, and late night contact jams. New England's hosts are solid through 2015. Terese Freedman, Regional Director, and adjudicators Monica Bill Barnes, Mark Haim, and Maura Keefe, were the voices of the conference.



Don't rob me of the chance to feel what you are feeling by usurping all the emotion in the piece. – Bebe Miller; Southeast Conference

I'm playing music police, next time you get a ticket if you don't give the right credit. – Mary Cochran; Southeast Conference

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Home to ACDFA Spring 2012



ACDFA By The Numbers!

4856 – Number of Conference Participants in 2011

408 – Adjudicated Dances

183 – Informal Dances

280 – Participating Schools

10 Great Regions

-Expanding to 11 in 2012

-Growing to 12 in 2013!

Northeast Region



Muhlenberg College became the Northeast's stomping grounds under the watchful eyes of Karen Dearborn, ACDFA Treasurer, Jessica Bien, and Regional Director, Michele Dunleavy. The 513 dancers presented 37 adjudicated pieces, 17 informal pieces, and took part in classes, dinners, receptions, and a concert by Urban Bush Women. The stellar adjudicators were Gabri Christa, Susan Hadley, and James Sutton. Another highlight was the focus on Screen Dance, including adjudication of videos made during the conference by participating schools. The region only has one confirmed host set for 2012, there are hosts projected through 2015.

Northwest Region



Gesel Mason and Nicholas Leichter headlined an opening night performance in the Northwest Region, at the University of Idaho. There, conference coordinator Greg Halloran along with Regional Director, Marsha Knight, assembled an expert adjudication panel of Gesel Mason, Nicholas Leichter, and KT Niehof to comment upon 34 dances. There were 17 informal pieces, Men's Dance classes, injury prevention classes, and classes devoted to dance and deaf culture. The eager Northwest proudly positions itself as one of the most secure regions where hosts are concerned. There are projected and confirmed hosts through...wait for it... 2018!

South Central Region



Amidst the saguaro, 528 participants danced in 48 adjudicated works, 26 informal pieces; took capoeira classes, attended receptions; and enjoyed Hilary McDaniel-Douglas' Project in Motion. Debra Knapp, the conference coordinator, brought these events to fruition with the assistance of Regional Director, Susan Douglas Roberts. The adjudication team was Kay Anderson, Patrick Suzeau, and Robin Wilson. Born of necessity, was a day mid-conference without any adjudication. This "down" day was so warmly received that the 2012 host will be scheduling similarly. The South Central Region has a variety of confirmed and projected hosts through 2019.

Southeast Region



The award for the largest conference goes to Florida State University, who hosted 580 participants. Russell Sandifer and Jen Atkins along with the Southeast Regional Director, Angela Gallo, opened their doors, yet again, to another successful event. The impressive adjudication panel included Bebe Miller, Zvi Goetheiner, and Mary Cochran. There were 44 adjudicated dances, 18 informal pieces, and 149 classes offered in their magnificent facility. Highlights of the conference included eight performances by Site-Specific/Installation/Collaborative Alaskan artist Emily Johnson and a mardigras themed reception high atop the FSU's stadium

Southwest Region



The schools in the Southwest region enjoyed its last conference together before dividing into Baja and West regions for 2012. At California State University, Long Beach 493 participants took part in a meaningful gathering. Coordinated by Andy Vaca, Baja Regional Director, and the now late Susan McLain, the conference offered 40 adjudicated works, 22 informal pieces and several receptions of full meals and well-fed participants. Regional Director Cathy Davalos and adjudicators Frank Chaves, KT Niehof, and Joan Woodbury were on hand to guide the artists in attendance. Registration for this conference closed within eight hours!

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