

# September News Blast



## SCHOOLS ARE BACK IN SESSION

*There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning.*  
Louis L'Amour

*Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?*  
Lucy Maud Montgomery

*And suddenly you know. . . It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.*  
Meister Eckhart

## ACDA 2017 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Host schools have been working for over a year to bring to their region a powerfully rich dance experience. All member schools were emailed with information about host schools on Sept. 6 and invitation codes will be coming soon to current ACDA members.

Registration is on-line and opens in October, with members given priority, first in their own region and then for any conference with space available.

Baja and West members begin in-region member priority registration on **Wednesday, October 5th**.

For all other regions in-region member priority registration opens on **Thursday, October 13th**.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a change from the previously posted opening date.**

***Set your calendars!***

## ACDA INITIATIVES--Summer 2016 American Dance Festival & Jacob's Pillow

The Summer of 2016 saw two exciting initiatives, offering new opportunities for the ACDA membership. The American Dance Festival offered discounts to ACDA faculty and graduate students

to attend the Dance Professionals Workshop in June. At the end of August, Jacob's Pillow presented four dances curated from the National College Dance Festival. These inspiring opportunities have made a lasting impression on those who participated. The partnerships with ADF and Jacob's Pillow provide our members with new avenues in which to grow. Collaborations are the key to strengthening our impact on the world. Both partnerships were successful and will continue in 2017.

*...We stood on the soil, we breathed the air, we danced on the iconic stage, and we made history not only for ourselves, but for our university ...*

*Thanks to the partnership between ACDA and ADF I was able to attend the Dance Professionals Workshop, and I plan on doing so again in the future!*

Brianna McCray,  
Dancer from  
Sam Houston State University

Amy VanKirk,  
Faculty, Radford University

## ACDA @ ADF

### A note from Gerri Houlihan

Director, American Dance Festival Dance Professionals Workshop

*I was delighted that three ACDA members attended the ADF Dance Professionals Workshop this past summer through our new 20% discount for ACDA faculty and graduate students, which will be offered again in 2017. As the director of the DPW Intensive, I encourage ACDA faculty and grad students to join me next summer for an inspiring eight days of classes, performances and discussions that will refresh your spirit and provide unique opportunities to connect with fellow dance artists and educators. Discover what moves you at ADF!*

*The three folks who joined us last summer were a terrific addition to the program. I hope more folks will take us up on our offer for next summer!*

**More words from ADF-DPW participant Amy VanKirk (Assistant Professor Radford University):**

*In the intensive setting of the American Dance Festival Dance Professionals Workshop I was able to develop my skills in choreography, teaching, and performance, and reignite my passion for all three. While many intensives tend to be limiting, the ADF DPW allowed for time with a wide variety of incredible educators and performers ... My goals for the summer were to replenish my creative energy supply and find new inspiration, and this workshop helped me fulfill both of these goals thanks to the partnership between ACDA and ADF.*

## ACDA @ JACOB'S PILLOW

The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival invited four dances selected from the ACDA National Festival to be performed at the Pillow on August 25, 2016. These dances were performed on the Inside/Out Marcia & Seymour Simon Performance Space.

Capturing the experience of ACDA @ Jacob's Pillow:

*Humbled is the only word that comes to my mind whenever I am asked to express my short-lived experience at Jacob's Pillow. Having the privilege of being a part of the first [ACDA performance at the Pillow] was something that pushed me in every way as a dancer. The experience granted me a taste of just how glorious this craft can truly be. The four universities were really able to have the whole VIP experience, with a private*

*tour of the grounds and exclusive look into the Pillow's own archives which is a gem within an already Historic National Landmark. Mr. Shawn would be so proud of what the farm he bought has become. The Inside/Out, with its free admission, feels just like a summer picnic with friends watching the art of dance. Within the trees, its backdrop of the mountains, the Pillow creates the most ego-free, inclusive environment that I have ever experienced. All that Jacob's Pillow has shared with us left me full of love for the dance world.*

Kevin Lopez  
Dancer from  
California State University, Fullerton

Congratulations to the dance programs, choreographers and dancers from Rutgers University (NJ), LIU Brooklyn (NY), Sam Houston State University (TX), and California State University, Fullerton (CA)! who performed on the Inside/Out stage at Jacob's Pillow on August 25, 2106.



***A Conversation on Drowning***

Rutgers University; Undergraduate Student - Javier Padilla



***Un.Framed.***

LIU Brooklyn; Guest Artist - Alenka Cizmesija



***We Are Greenwood,***

Sam Houston State University; Faculty - Elijah Alhadji Gibson



***August***

California State University, Fullerton; Guest Artist - Colin Connor

**More Words about ACDA @ Jacob's Pillow**

**Debra Noble**, Dance Program Director California State University, Fullerton

*Our CSU, Fullerton dancers were enthralled to be performing on the Inside/Out Stage. They left full of inspiration. The experience connected all of us with the past, the present and the future of the art form. Many thanks to everyone at ACDA and Jacob's Pillow who helped to make this happen! It was magical.*

**Chris Jensen**, California State University, Fullerton

*Dancing at Jacobs Pillow was simply one of the most amazing opportunities I have ever encountered. Just thinking about all the people who have come and gone through Jacobs Pillow and we had the chance make our mark in such a special place. Thank you.*

**Jonathan Kim**, California State University, Fullerton

*It was an honor to be a part of the historic collaboration between the American College Dance Association and Jacob's Pillow. Performing on the Inside/Out stage was a surreal, humbling, and rewarding experience that intensified our passion to pursue dance. [The four performers in the dance] each started late, and being a male dancer has brought its own baggage in our respective journeys. The piece August has allowed us to explore masculinity, community, and resilience through movement. Sharing this work with Jacob's Pillow has been nothing short of dream, a dream worth fighting for.*

**Andrew Corpuz**, California State University, Fullerton

*The Pillow was a perfect place to see [the dancers] off and out to our separate paths. It was a breath taking experience. Thank you.*

**Anthony J. Davis**, Sam Houston State University

*... The Inside/Out stage is without a doubt one of the scariest stages I have performed on because so many amazing companies and dancers before me have graced that stage. It would be amazing if other college dancers could get the same opportunity to experience Jacob's Pillow in the same way that I got to during my undergraduate career. They would all truly benefit from it in terms of enrichment, and also giving a push of encouragement to keep pursuing dance as a career.*

**Courtney Allen**, Sam Houston State University

*Jacobs Pillow is more than just a space for dance rich in history. It is an experience that left me feeling closer and more connected to previous dance pioneers. Actually being able to perform on the Inside/Out stage after touring the property made me realize that I am now apart of that history. It was an experience of a lifetime.*

**Kaleb Edwards**, Sam Houston State University

*My time at Jacob's Pillow was nothing short of amazing... The overall experience made me understand myself more as a dancer and as an artist because it was so humbling to be educated on how the ones who came before us loved dance just as much as I do.*



*Diane and William enjoying the experience \**

Photography credits:  
Hayim Heron  
Diane DeFries

\*Diane DeFries, ACDA Executive Director  
and William Seigh, ACDA President

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newsletter editor  
Debra Wright Knapp

ACDA VP for Membership  
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ADCA fosters a community  
and culture of diverse and  
creative humans.

*I know there is strength in the  
differences between us. I know  
there is comfort, where we overlap.*  
Ani DiFranco

*I believe we can change the world if  
we start listening to one another  
again. Simple, honest, human  
conversation.*  
Margaret J. Wheatley