

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS NEWSLETTER TO EVERYONE ATTENDING  
A REGIONAL CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.



AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Our 40th Conference Season is Here!

ACDFA Newsletter

February 2013

## The Reason for the Season

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ACDFA  
Going strong since  
1973



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### WHAT TO BRING TO THE CONFERENCE

**Water bottles:** Many conferences have been selling or even giving participants water bottles as a memento, but more importantly, as a way to reduce waste. Bring your

### From the President

Gatherings. Powwows. Events. Hootenannies. Call them what you will (okay, yes, the official term is still "conference"), the ACDFA tribe is soon convening to dance - in 12 sites around the country. And we are excited! ACDFA always feels something like a tribe to me as our members gather to reflect upon a collective dance spirit yet honor distinctly creative regional cultures. At the core is education and the commitment to an art form we physically practice and love deeply.

This year we happily celebrate 40 years of that sharing. So when you are at your conference, take some time to look at our ACDFA heritage (it will be on display, in several forms) and know that you are part of a family, a tribe, a very special group of people. With you - our members - at the center of all we do, ACDFA will continue to evolve and grow as we look forward to 50!

Holly Williams  
ACDFA President



### Getting the most out of your Conference

#### Maximizing the Experience

The ACDFA conference is like so many other wonderful traditions in our lives. It is like a dance holiday full of family, friends, food, laughing, socializing, reconnecting, exploration, and discovery. Like most traditions there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes from

own - and remember - no sharing. The flu was no fun for anyone.

**Dance shoes** of your choice: you will most likely encounter many or all of the following dance classes: tap, ballet, pointe, salsa, hip-hop, maybe even clogging. Make sure you are prepared so you don't find yourself embedding thumbtacks into your sneakers for that tap class you were dying to take.

**Yoga Mat:** Somatic practices and body therapies are omnipresent at our conferences. Everything from yoga to Pilates, to tennis ball massage to gyrokinesis to Feldenkreis and beyond - so be ready! You'll love that 8am yoga class, but not if you are trying to get the most out of your down dog on a cold gym floor.

**Patience:** Your conference will be full and there may be upwards of 500 people who are just as excited about that hip-hop class as you are. Breathe. Have a back up plan in case you don't get in. If you do get in, know that classes WILL be crowded - and thankfully so. You will move, communicate, share, and explore with many who are about to become your friends.

**Enthusiasm:** You will be watching a lot of dance. You will be hearing feedback. You will meet impressive adjudicators. You will reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Your enthusiasm is what makes the conference tick. Be generous with it.

#### REMINDER

**Posting images without receiving permission from ACDFA and the host school is not allowed.**

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE

When the Board of Directors convened in Washington DC last May,

the familiar. However, like the most memorable holidays, even greater satisfaction can come from the times we stray from the familiar.

If you are a diehard ballerina, take the African class. If you are a jazz dancer, take that edgy improv class. Take a choreography workshop, sit in on a lecture, learn about lighting design, and jump into the spontaneously created site-specific work. You never know what new world is around the corner. Be brave, be adventurous. Take some classes that feel like home to you, but also know that there is no better time to uncover other "mysterious" aspects of our art - it is all relevant and interrelated. The best part, connecting the dots, is up to you!

## Packing for your trip to the Conference

### What should you take with you?

Like snowflakes, saguaro, peaches, BBQ, or coffee, no two conferences are the same. Whether you are in the Northeast, South, Baja, Northwest, or any of the remaining eight regions, you can count on a conference that will be dynamic,



transformative, and exciting. One thing that is certain, you will find classes-a lot of them. You'll also encounter hosts working diligently to keep the gathering as green as possible. See the sidebar for a list of whats and whys to help you be as prepared as the world's best scout.

What not to bring? An itchy trigger finger waiting to post that cool combination, great dance, or master class on the Internet! You will have signed a waiver agreeing not to post other people's material. Let's just keep all of that to ourselves!

## The Adjudication Process: ACDFA's Keystone

### Decoding a Valued Process

Perhaps the most elegant and time-honored aspect of any conference is the well-honed adjudication process. It is a means by which experienced and new choreographers gain insight to their work via the feedback of an outside, objective eye. No



system is flawless, certainly, but the process employed by ACDFA can ensure that anonymity will not be taken for granted. Adjudicators are educated thoroughly in the disciplines and practices of the feedback session and are expected to honor the process and guard the integrity of the work with care and diligence.

When you attend a feedback session, a member of the ACDFA Executive Committee as well as your Regional Director will take you through the process. You will learn the fundamental components that make up the session and become aware of the practices that are used to protect anonymity. To that end, your help in this area is also critical.

Adjudicators do not know what schools are in attendance, who

there was discussion regarding institutional membership dues. Costs of running the organization have increased significantly but membership dues have not increased in 18 years. The last time ACDFA raised dues was in 1995, an increase from \$200 to \$250. That \$250 in 1995 dollars is equivalent to \$377 in today's dollars.

Budgets are tight for everyone and we know that every dollar counts. The decision to set dues at \$350 for a two-year institutional membership beginning Fall 2013 was not an easy one, but the Board determined it is needed to keep ACDFA going for at least another 40 years.

All institutions that are currently up-to date with their dues will not see the increase until the next renewal period.



choreographed the work they are seeing, nor are they made aware of what faculty are attending. ACDFA requests, that despite your school pride, avoid wearing t-shirts or sweatshirts that identify your school when in the feedback session.

The feedback session is a one-way conversation. The adjudicators will speak to the whole group and will not attempt to seek out individuals. With that, try not to call attention to yourself or your peers when it is time for your piece to be discussed. Feel free to take lots and lots of notes, but try to avoid getting the attention of the adjudicator. Likewise, if you hear something that may not delight you, try not to show outward signs of anger, disdain, or frustration. There will be time for all of that when the session is over.

The feedback process, remember, is a chance for you to hear the opinions of three strangers. Whether good or bad, remind yourself that your piece is your journey. You asked yourself the questions and now the adjudicators will essentially ask questions that were raised in their minds. Ultimately, what should result from the entire experience is greater connection to your work and most importantly, the acquisition of information whose value deepens with time.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Ohio State University students perform Merce Cunningham's "Field Dances" at the 1973 ACDFA pilot festival.



Ohio State University performing Merce Cunningham's "Field Dances" 1973 Festival

## SPRING ELECTIONS

From Marsha Knight  
ACDFA VP for Nominations & Elections



Thank you for all who've participated in the nomination process for the ACDFA Board of Directors. Final lists are being compiled by each Regional Director, after which time Diane will forward a final slate of nominees to each region's membership one week before the start of each regional conference. Please note that only the ACDFA Institutional Liaison receives emails from the national office. We all all liaisons to forward information to all faculty.

The election timeline has been set up to give membership an opportunity to identify and get to know candidates during the coming months of conferences. Please put this on your checklist of things that can be accomplished during your conference so that you are aware of candidates and have the information you want prior to voting. Ballots will be sent out by the National Office to the membership of those regions requiring elections two weeks after the close of the conference.

**VOTE!** Please take part in this important part of ACDFA's function and future!

ACDFA expresses our deep gratitude to the following for decades of support :



ACDFA Lifetime Members:

Elizabeth Ahearn, Judy Allen, Jean Baxter, Jeanne Beaman, B.J. Bray, Lori Bryhni, Mary Cochran, Mary-Jean Cowell, Karen Dearborn, Abby Fiat, Barry Fischer, Lonny Gordon, Luke Kahlich, Joanne Lawrence, Paula Levine, Rhythm McCarthy, Ann Sanders, Russell Sandifer, Brent Schneider, Dorothy Silver (deceased), Jan Simonds, and Alcine Wiltz