

“CREATING THINKING ARTISTS”

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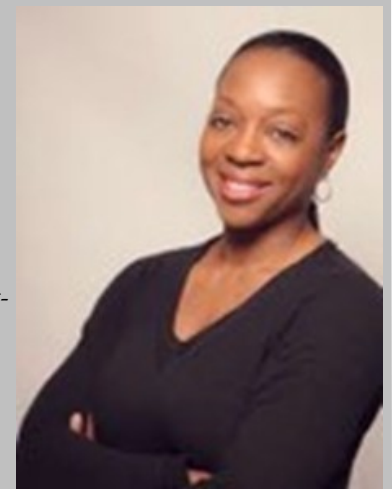
The 2013-2014 academic year proved to be quite a productive and successful year for the WKU Dance Program. From changes to our winter mainstage concert, to new educational experiences, to specialized audition opportunities for national programs, we remained busy furthering the educational experience of our students. One of our primary commitments continues to be developing relationships with professional artists currently teaching/performing in the field in order to provide unique experiences and benefits for dance majors as they prepare to enter the field themselves upon graduation. We are delighted to have had two exciting guest artists work with our dancers and three companies conduct auditions on our campus. This issue highlights these activities and our recent accomplishments.

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM COMES TO WKU!

The Dance Program was delighted to have Endalyn Taylor, the School Director at Dance Theatre of Harlem, as our spring guest artist. Over the course of four days in April, Taylor taught ballet and partnering classes to dance majors as well as set original choreography on selected members of the WKU Dance Company. The dance faculty was delighted to have an artist from an internationally recognized company work with students and found it to be an enriching experience for all involved. This opportunity afforded students the experience of participating in an audition and rehearsal process along with technique classes by a professional from NYC.

“It was a wonderful experience. It was so nice to learn from someone who is a professional in New York. She gave us new ways to approach the steps we do everyday.”

-Samantha Pennella, freshman dance major



The Dance Program is thankful for the support from the Provost, PCAL Dean’s Office and Honors College for the experience with Taylor. Her piece, *Untitled*, was performed in *Last Chance To Dance* spring 2014.

WKU WELCOMES BROADWAY DANCE CENTER

The Dance Program ended the academic year with a visit by Jim Cooney, an award-winning choreographer and Faculty Advisor at the internationally recognized Broadway Dance Center (BDC) in New York City. Cooney taught a theater dance master class, gave a presentation on the professional programs offered by BDC, and conducted a mock audition. Clifton Brown, WKU Dance Program Coordinator and Associate Professor, played a role in making Cooney's visit become a reality.

"I was invited in December 2013 by Bonnie Erickson, director of educational programming of Broadway Dance Center (BDC), to their annual winter concert in New York City. I was so impressed with the caliber and professionalism of their work and what the professional program had to offer, I knew I had to bring them to WKU. After much difficulty in obtaining funding to make this opportunity happen for the dance majors, I received funding from the Honors College, Honors Faculty Engagement Grant and the WKU National Dance Education Organization student chapter." - Clifton Brown



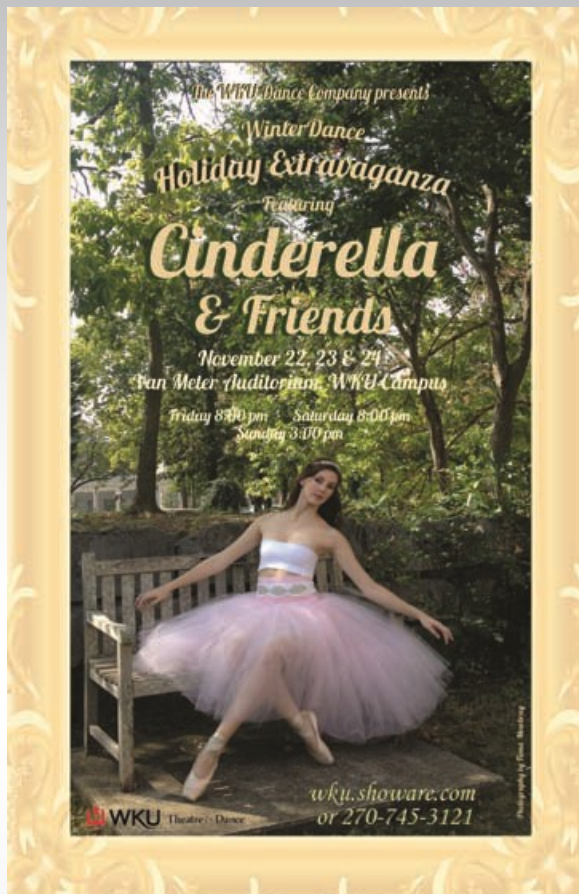
Cooney is the faculty advisor for the full-time educational programs at the BDC. Erickson describes Cooney as

"the pinnacle of professionalism, which in a word is what we're teaching,... "We so believe in our message and Jimmy simply exemplifies it. My hope is that he will inspire the dancers at WKU to new heights of excellence and to help them see their dreams within reach."

A primary goal of Cooney's visit was to educate WKU dancers on BDC's Professional Semester Program. Cooney stated, *"It's our elite training program that takes well-trained dancers and turns them into working dancers by giving them the tools they need and making connections to industry professionals."* Cooney's visit provided students the opportunity to work with someone unfamiliar to them and brought "real world" energy to the university setting. The mock audition allowed students a professional experience embedded with insight about their performance during the audition. Cooney conveyed to students that a career in dance is possible, yet passion for dance is a must. He also emphasized the importance of performance, even in daily technique classes.

This experience is the first step in establishing a relationship between the WKU Dance Program and BDC, and we look forward to what the future holds with this newly founded connection.

PERFORMANCE



A HOLIDAY EXTRAVANGANZA

Featuring

CINDERELLA and Friends

Previously known as *Winterdance*, this concert marked a first for the Dance Program.

Cinderella was the first full-length ballet performed by the WKU Dance Company. Choreographed by Clifton Keefer Brown, this condensed version of the famous ballet mesmerized audiences. A children's costume parade and post-concert photo opportunities with Cinderella and Prince Charming, sponsored by the NDEO—WKU Student Chapter, engaged a new generation of fans.

The second act consisted of holiday inspired choreography by Associate Professor Amanda Clark and Assistant Professors Eric Rivera and Lisa Draskovich-Long.

EVENING OF DANCE 2014

Our 2014-2015 season concluded with our annual *Evening of Dance* concert. This year's concert premiered six new works and featured choreography by dance faculty Clifton Keefer Brown, Amanda Clark, and Eric Rivera. Choreography styles included ballet, jazz, modern and tap, and the concert ended with a restaging of the crowd pleaser *Pop Culture*.



NATIONAL DANCE EDUCATION ORGANIZATION—STUDENT CHAPTER

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the NDEO—WKU Student Chapter firmly established itself as a student organization within the Department of Theatre and Dance. The mission of the chapter is to support and advance the dance education of its members and the surrounding community. The organization enables students to enhance their dance education by providing funds to create opportunities to further dance study and performance.

Accomplishments this year include supporting the WKU Dance Program in working to establish an alliance with Broadway Dance Center and bringing Jim Cooney of Broadway Dance Center to WKU for a unique dance experience; Leading an African dance master class and performance during WKU's International Education Week (IEW), financially supporting student travel to attend two adjudicated dance conferences; Received an organizational grant from the Student Government Association, to support student travel to the American College Dance Festival!

The chapter will be seeking sponsorship and donors to support student travel to **Italy 2015**. This international tour was founded by Dance Program Coordinator, Clifton Brown and provides a unique global experience for WKU dancers. If you are interested in supporting Italy 2015, contact Amanda Clark, NDEO-Student Chapter faculty advisor at amanda.clark@wku.edu.

AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE FESTIVAL

In March, the WKU Dance Company, including 19 students and 3 dance faculty, traveled to the University of Arkansas—Little Rock to attend and perform in the southern region American College Dance Festival. Students participated in a variety of dance master classes ranging from choreography and improvisation to hip hop to world dance forms. Eric Rivera's *Contratiempo*, danced by junior Nathan Fister and sophomore Mara Brand, was selected to perform in the Gala Concert. This was an exciting opportunity for students to experience learning a variety of dance genres, gain exposure to new choreography, and represent the strengths of the Dance Program.



THE DANCE PROJECT



CHOREOGRAPHY BY
WKU STUDENTS
AND ALUMNI

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2014

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT 8 PM

SUNDAY AT 3 PM

LAB THEATRE, GORDON WILSON HALL

ADMISSION \$6

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WKU.SHOWARE.COM

Alumni Return for *The Dance Project*

The Department of Theatre and Dance's annual student choreography concert, *The Dance Project*, is a highlight for student choreographers. For this past year's concert, dance alumni were invited to return and set their own original choreography on our current students.

Over the course of three days, five alumni auditioned, taught, and rehearsed their work in preparation for the show, which ran February 14th, 15th, and 16th. These alums returned to their alma mater from as far as Chicago and Indiana. Not only was this an opportunity for alumni to have their choreography performed, but it was a chance for our newer students to make personal connections with former students. It was certainly a great experience for all involved!

ALUMNI UPDATE

Mitchell Haley, a 2013 WKU graduate just completed his first season as a Performing Apprentice with Inaside Dance Chicago. Mitch credits the WKU Dance Program as the place where he honed his technique and choreography skills. Congrats, Mitch!

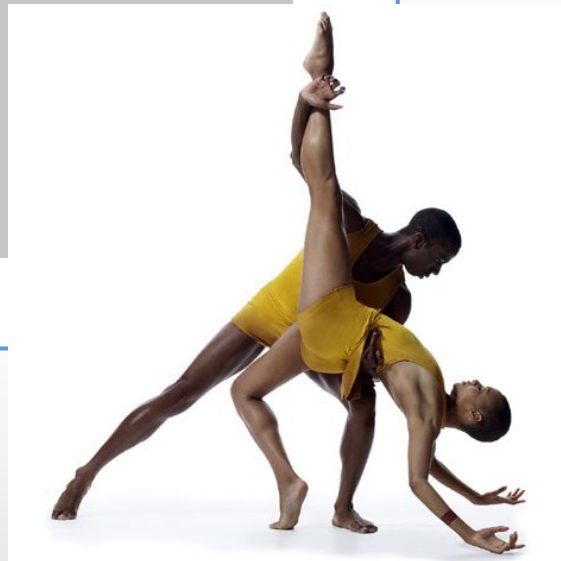


*If you have an alumni update,
e-mail Amanda.clark@wku.edu*

AUDITIONS and SUMMER PROGRAMS

The WKU Dance Program was pleased to have two prestigious summer programs hold auditions on our main campus. In February, **JOFFREY BALLET SCHOOL**, auditioned for their summer ballet and jazz dance intensives. In April, **DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER** held auditions for placement into their summer program. Over 40 dancers from WKU and the Bowling Green community auditioned for each program and several were accepted and awarded scholarships for summer 2014.

(Photo of Deeply Rooted)



Where WKU Students are headed for Summer 2014!

Each summer, our dancers attend intensives to further their training. Many have been awarded scholarships for programs this summer. Following are some of the programs our dancers will be attending:

- * Dance Theater of Harlem
- * Joffrey Summer Program
- * Deeply Rooted
- * Inaside Summer Intensive
- * Christopher K Morgan Summer Intensive

SAVE THE DATE!

National Auditions

November 13, 2014 and February 7, 2015

A Holiday Extravaganza featuring Cinderella and Friends

November 22-24, 2014

The Dance Project

February 13-15, 2015

Evening of Dance

April 23-27, 2015