

LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE

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LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY Dance Education Pioneer Marks 2012 Milestone with Special Events Series

Beloved Bay Area dance organization Luna Dance Institute commemorates 20 years of success toward mission of bringing dance to all children. Events to include An "Evening of Lunacy" benefitting children and "20/20 Points of View: Twenty Choreographers Celebrate Luna's 20th" during National Dance Week.



Photo by Lauren Forbus

EMERYVILLE, CA, October 21, 2011— Luna Dance Institute (LDI), the Bay Area institution dedicated to bringing dance to all children, is proud to announce its 20th Anniversary in 2012. Formerly known to a generation of young dancers as Luna Kids Dance, LDI has grown over the last two decades from a locally-based studio to a nationally-recognized leader in dance education.

Founded on International Women's Day in 1992 by Patricia Reedy as Luna—A Dance World, Luna first occupied a bustling space on Park Boulevard in Oakland which served as a hub for children, dance artists and teachers. Following a rent increase of over 100% in 1998, Luna closed the space and re-invented itself as a satellite program aimed at making dance accessible to all children. To accomplish this goal, Luna forged strong partnerships

with the Oakland Unified School District that continue to this day. Its initial efforts to expand dance in public schools have evolved into LDI's School and Community Alliances Program, credited with establishing the first fully-articulated year-round dance program spanning all grade levels in a California public school.

In an effort to bring dance to a greater number of children, Reedy and Co-Director Nancy Ng launched the Professional Learning arm of the organization in 2005. The program offers workshops, consultations and year-round coaching to educators teaching dance in all contexts. At the heart of the program is LDI's Summer Institutes. Over 100 dance artists and educators have experienced these 6-day pedagogy intensives. They receive support over the course of their career, bringing dance to over 24,000 children annually. LDI is now piloting a Certification Program in dance education for teachers, the first of its kind in the country.

The most significant milestone in Luna's recent development came in 2010, when it rebranded as Luna Dance Institute and moved into a spacious new home in Emeryville. Located in the historic EmeryTech building at 1400 65th Street, the space consolidates LDI's offices, studio, and growing Professional Learning Library.

Reedy and Ng view the coming 20th year landmark as an opportunity for reflection, gratitude, and celebration for Luna's journey thus far. "Luna is a grown woman," says Reedy. "Our staff and board are strong. Now we can focus on finding the most effective means of sharing our collective knowledge about dance education with all who teach children."

To commemorate its 20th year, Luna will host:

- A special-invitation Birthday Party for Luna's school and community partners on the anniversary of Luna's founding, March 8, 2012.
- "An Evening of Lunacy: An Extravagant Folly Benefitting Children," featuring live dance, music and comedy, locally-made delicacies, and extravaganza raffles, March 10th.
- "20/20 Points of View: Twenty Choreographers Celebrate Luna's 20th," featuring twenty Bay Area choreographers in an all-day series of informal, 20-minute performances and open rehearsals at Luna's Emeryville home, April 25th.
- 20th Anniversary Celebration of Dance Learning, featuring choreography and performances by students in Luna's Studio Lab program, the only composition-based dance program for children 5-18 in the Bay Area, May 24th.

Directors Patricia Reedy and/or Nancy Ng are available for interviews.

ABOUT LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE

Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is the most comprehensive dance education organization on the west coast. We serve children, families, dance artists, educators, schools and organizations through a variety of programs aimed at increasing access to dance for all. Last year we brought dance to over 24,000 children and 300 artists, teachers, and social-service providers a year. Our rigorous approach emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and composition. LDI's programs include **Professional Learning**, providing education and support to all who teach dance; **Studio Laboratory**, the Bay Area's only choreography-based program for children and teens; **School and Community Alliances (SCA)**, supporting schools in our home community to build standards-based dance programs; **Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT)**, providing parent-child dance classes to families in Alameda County and the child welfare system, and **Building Cultures of Dance**, offering consulting to districts, organizations, schools and teachers throughout the country. For more information visit: lunadanceinstitute.org

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