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Teaching Artist Jochelle Pereña Receives *Dance Teacher Magazine's Dance Teacher Award*

Berkeley, Ca— *Dance Teacher* magazine announced this July that Jochelle Pereña, Teaching Artist and Programs Manager at Luna Dance Institute (LDI), is the recipient of one of four 2015 *Dance Teacher Awards* for her noteworthy work with students K-12. Pereña will be honored at the *Dance Teacher Summit* July 28-30, 2015 in Long Beach, CA.

In the July issue *Dance Teacher Magazine* reported that the four remarkable educators chosen “inspire us by nurturing their students’ love of dance, whether preparing them for success at competitions, paving pathways to professional careers or offering them an emotional outlet through movement.”

Pereña who holds a professional diploma from London’s Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and an MFA in dance, has taught for more than seven years at schools in low-income neighborhoods throughout Oakland, CA. Her award honors Luna’s nationally acclaimed School and Community Alliance (SCA) program that builds comprehensive, standards-based dance programs in early childhood centers, schools, districts, arts and community agencies that serve children with the least access. In addition to the SCA program Pereña manages LDI’s Professional Learning, Studio Lab, and MPACT programs that bring dance to over 20,000 children annually.

When asked what receiving the 2015 *Dance Teaching Award* means to her Pereña responded, “I’m truly honored to be recognized and to represent LDI as a creative dance teacher in public schools, because I see the value of having dance integrated into the daily curriculum. Seeing students discover new things about themselves through dance reminds me of how proud I am to be doing the work that I do.”

Visit <http://www.dance-teacher.com/2015/06/the-2015-dance-teacher-awards/> to read a full profile of Jochelle Pereña, and fellow *Dance Teacher Award* recipients.

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 everyone. Last year we brought dance to over 20,000 children and 300 artists, teachers, and social- service providers. 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 community to build standards-based dance programs; Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT), providing parent-child dance classes to families in the child welfare system. As an established Institution with a national reputation for expertise and training in dance education—Luna's Building Cultures of Dance initiative offers program planning, implementation, consultation and evaluation to schools, districts, and arts organizations throughout the country. For more information visit: lunadanceinstitute.org  



Photo of Pereña teaching Modern Dance Composition by Michael Ertem.