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### **Dance and the Brain Conference Brings Experts into the Bay Area Community**

Berkeley, CA - Luna Dance Institute's Dance and the Brain Conference is the first of its kind in the Bay Area community. On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> experts enriching the field with their research will travel to Berkeley to present on creativity and the brain, brain compatible dance, and the most recent findings on symbolic play and social engagement. Guest speakers include James Catterall, Center for Research on Creativity, dedicated to understanding creative behavior and motivation and experiences that boost creativity; Ann Law, Artistic Director of Copac (Contemporary Performing Arts Chattanooga), who will explore brain compatible dance work in relation to the creative process, somatics and neuropatterns; and Pamela Wolfberg, creator of Integrated Play Groups®, a model which maximizes the developmental potential and intrinsic motivation of children with autism to play with typically developing peers.

The heart is connected to the brain, and both are connected to the body. As humans, we are hard-wired to learn through movement and a connected, loving attachment to a primary caregiver. Throughout our lives, we continue to learn through moving and interacting with people and our world. When we dance—body, mind and spirit connect in action; this conference investigates this convergence and provides practical applications for practitioners in education, the arts, health and wellness. Teachers, dancers, parents, researchers, scientists and community members will participate in inspiring lectures, interactive dialogues and movement explorations throughout the day.

For 23 years Luna Dance Institute has invigorated the arts education field through active inquiry to deepen the learning experience of children and adults. Luna's nationally recognized Professional Learning and Model Programs—School & Community Alliances, MPACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) and Studio Lab, work in tandem to explore the confluence of neuroscience, literacy, creativity and relationships; all connected through the moving body. Luna faculty members annually present at conferences including, National Dance Education Organization, Kennedy Center VSA, California Association for the Education of Young Children. Most recently, founder and Director of Teaching and Learning, Patricia Reedy, was the keynote speaker at the international, "Embody/In My Body" conference in Canada. The Institute's ground-breaking research in parent-child engagement through dance, *Engaging Families in Dance: An Investigation of Moving Parents and Children Together* was published in the *International Journal for Education and the Arts*, in 2014.

The Dance and The Brain Conference will take place at Luna's studio and library, 605 Addison Street, Berkeley, California on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-5pm. Registration is \$185 for the full-day. For more information and conference presenter biographies visit:  
<http://lunadanceinstitute.org/dance-and-the-brain-mini-conference/>.



# DANCE & THE BRAIN CONFERENCE

with guest speakers

Dr. James Catterall, Principal Investigator  
of the Centers for Research on Creativity

Ann Law, Dance Artist & Educator

Dr. Pamela Wolfberg, Professor of Special  
Education, SFSU & originator of Integrated Play Groups



additional support from Creative Dance Foundation  
& The Linda & David Kohn Foundation

May 2nd, 2015  
9am-5pm, \$185

LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE

605 Addison Street, Berkeley

register: 510.883.1118

[www.lunadanceinstitute.org](http://www.lunadanceinstitute.org)

## 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](http://lunadanceinstitute.org)  