



Community Services and Activities

Jeanne Ruddy Dance is committed to serving the community by contributing artistic, educational and outreach activities to enrich the lives of Philadelphia's citizens:

Jeanne Ruddy Dance School Scholarships—Initiated in 2006, the school at Jeanne Ruddy Dance provides over 20 full scholarships annually to lower-income, inner-city pre-teens and teenagers who are considered *at risk*. Many of these students do not have access to arts programs in their public schools, and are not able to afford tickets to dance, theater, music and other arts events citywide. Through their training at Jeanne Ruddy Dance, these students are encouraged to develop greater levels of self-esteem by acquiring mastery over basic dance skills, working cooperatively as a group, and through opportunities to express themselves both uniquely and creatively.

School Residencies—With the continued decline of arts programs in Philadelphia's public, charter and parochial schools, many educators have found in-school artist residencies, workshops and seminars invaluable in shaping a well-rounded student. Jeanne Ruddy Dance and Dance Educator, Janet Pilla, conducted two long-term residencies during the school year 2006–2007. High school students (pre-selected by the school for their interest in dance) at Simon Gratz and Archbishop Ryan had the opportunity to work with Janet during an intensive, two-week session in modern dance. The students (about 80 combined) learned the elements that define modern dance, basic skills and techniques, the history of the genre's evolution, its most important choreographers and the components of choreographing a new work. At the end of the residency, students from each school created a new dance work and used the techniques and skills they had learned during a performance for their peers.

School Outreach Performances—Each year since its establishment, Jeanne Ruddy Dance has performed excerpts from its season repertory free of charge for neighborhood school children. Last year, over 150 children from St. Malachy School and Russell Byers Charter School, were transported to The Performance Garage and treated to an hour-long performance of modern dance. After the performance, Artistic Director Jeanne Ruddy and company dancers were onstage to answer the children's questions about the performance, production elements, modern dance, and how to become a dancer. Later, a kid-friendly reception was offered.

Collaborations and Public Events—Each year, Jeanne Ruddy Dance provides opportunities for the community to attend special modern dance performances at no charge. Historically, these events are inspired by partnerships with other non-profit organizations (such as *Art at Five* performance at the Philadelphia Museum of Art) or facilitated as part of a neighborhood event (i.e. the annual Philadelphia Arts Crawl). Last year alone, three public performances were presented.

Public Dress Rehearsal—Open annually to dancers and other members of the Philadelphia arts community, Jeanne Ruddy Dance invites other artists to preview each season's works prior to paid performances for the public. This behind-the-scenes event encourages area artists to support the company, give them a broader access to dance performances, and proves the company's commitment to enhancing the lives of other artists while contributing to the arts community as a whole. Each year, more than 75 local artists (including dancers, performance artists, etc.) attend.

Lecture/Demonstrations—In an effort to educate, inform and entertain adults, Jeanne Ruddy Dance facilitates a number of free lectures/dance demonstrations each year. Promoted to the general community, these events are held at The Performance Garage in the early evening. They generally feature topics ranging from the *Process of Creating and Choreographing a New Work* to *Spotlights*, or profiles of landmark choreographers (many of whom are season guests of the company) and their portfolio of work. Typically, these programs offer demonstrations by company dancers that illustrate elements of the lecture topic, including pre-show receptions where attendees are encouraged to meet company members and guest artists and feature post-performance question and answer sessions. Total annual attendance at these events combined represents over 300 community members.

Discounted Rental Rates—Understanding the lack of affordable rehearsal and performance space available to artists in the City of Philadelphia, Jeanne Ruddy Dance established a discounted rental program for artists. This rate structure allows small non-profits and individual artists to rent studio space (for rehearsals/performances) at The Performance Garage, as well as gives them access to lighting, sound and other production resources for a fraction of what they would have to pay elsewhere. Introduced two years ago, this special rental program is attracting more and more local artists, and last year represented over 70 individual/group commitments.