

# The Jefferson Dancers

Created in 1974, The Jefferson Dancers, directed by Julane Stites, is the performing arm of the nationally known dance department at Jefferson High School in Portland, Oregon. It is a multi-ethnic company of 20 dancers, ages 13-19. The company comprises the school's most advanced dance students who have come to the Performing Arts center at Jefferson for dance training.

The company repertoire includes over seventy works of Tap, Ballet, Jazz Ethnic and Musical Theatre dances. Ten to twenty works are active for any season, including internationally renowned and award winning works.

Dancers for this young company are auditioned in the spring and those selected make a commitment to perform with the group for one school year. Their daily schedule consists of academic classes in which they must maintain strong grade-point averages, plus dance technique classes and a daily two hour rehearsal totaling almost 5 hours of dance. Their training is intended to be broad as well as deep and unlike most professional dance companies, The Jefferson Dancers perform

works in all dance styles.

The company performs extensively throughout the Northwest for community and school assemblies. In 1991 they toured the former Soviet Union, performing to appreciative audiences in Leningrad and Moscow.

In 1998 The Jefferson Dancers were awarded the right, by video audition, to perform at the gala at The National High School Festival in Miami, Florida. Over 1000 students from all over the world attended. This was a unique opportunity for Seniors to audition for over 50 colleges offering dance scholarships. Half of our Seniors that auditioned were offered scholarships. We also won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Student Choreography Award.

More recently, they returned from a tour in Canada. The touring season culminates each spring in a series of 6 performances of two alternating shows at the Performing Arts Center in Portland. These shows are designed to demonstrate the diversity of their training in a variety of dance styles.

The Jefferson Dancers are a non-profit organization.



The Jefferson Dancers, sponsored by PGE-Enron Foundation, will hold their annual concert series May 6-9 at the Newmark Theatre.

## The Jefferson Dancers

The highly specialized preprofessional training program, educates students about the depth of commitment necessary to technically train their bodies and mentally prepare themselves for a performing arts career.

This 25 year old endangered species survived being cut from Portland Public Schools last spring only because of parent and community efforts and by the grace of PGE-Enron Foundation.

Artistic Director Julane Stites promises something for everyone; the classics of Swan Lake and Don Quixote, the passion of the Tango, the joy of Musical Theatre and the rhythmic taps of choreographers Lane Alexander and Barbara Duffy.

The repertoire of 12 works, representing choreographers throughout the US and Australia, is divided into two alternating evenings.

Program A	
May 6 & 8	8 PM
May 8	2 PM
Program B	
May 7	8 PM
May 9	2 PM
May 9	7 PM

Tickets available at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office and Fastixx outlets.

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