

# Jefferson Dancers are 'Must See'

## Spring concerts at Newmark

Having just returned from a whirlwind tour of Europe, with 11 performances in 12 days in 5 cities, the Jefferson Dancers are ready to share their incredible energy and talents on the home front.

Appearing in concert on May 9, 10, 11, and 12, at 7:30pm and also on May 12 at 2 p.m., this well known troupe of dancers take the stage at the Newmark Theater, 1111 S.W. Broadway.

Drawing from the incredible talents of area choreographers, many of whom are former Jefferson Dancers, this year's concert will feature works from world renowned choreographer Sarah Slipper; Artistic Director Steve Gonzales; former Jefferson Dancer and member of the Northwest Afrikan American Ballet, Michelle Woodard; another former Jefferson Dancer, tap and hip hop choreographer Damon Keller; and from company members, Lex Dones and Mariea Miles.

Another featured choreographer will be body percussionist and rhythm dancer Keith Terry. A self-defined body musician, Terry uses the human body as the basis to "explore, blend and bend traditional and contemporary rhythmic percussive and movement possibilities."

The Jefferson Dancers consists of some of the area's most talented dancers. Many will go on to prestigious performing arts colleges and universities.

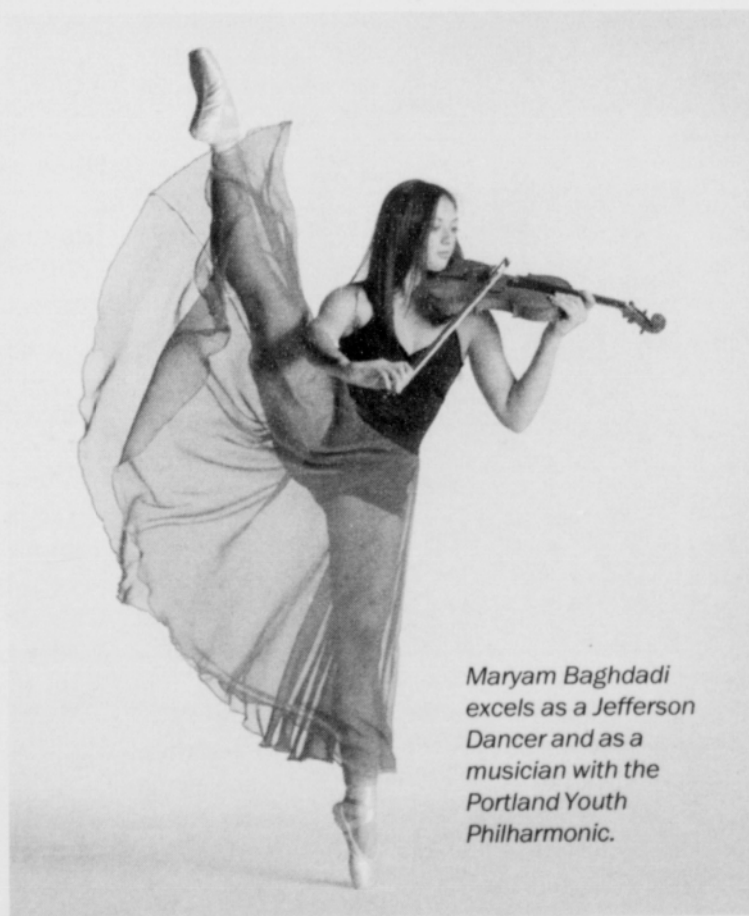
Seeing their upcoming performance will help explain why they are invited back to Europe year after year, why they continue to win scholarships and awards at every national high school dance festival they attend; and why this program is one of the premier high school dance programs in the country.

Tickets are priced at \$11.50, \$16 and \$20 and are available at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office or at any Ticketmaster outlet, visiting [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or calling 503-244-4400.



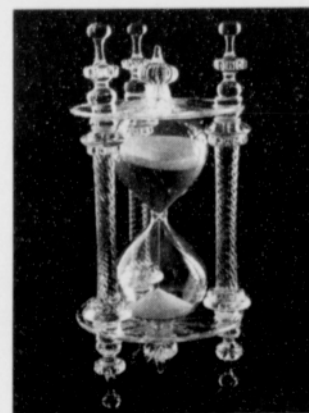
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLAINE COVERT

*Olivia Ancona and Maddi Evans (above) perform as members of the Jefferson Dancers. Both are seniors, with Ancona set to continue her studies at the Juilliard School in New York and Evans attending the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.*



*Maryam Baghdadi excels as a Jefferson Dancer and as a musician with the Portland Youth Philharmonic.*

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