

Heard to teach dance classes at LCC

FLORENCE — If you are the proud parent of a young dancer, then there's great news. Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshop (CROW) artistic director Melanie Heard will once again be offering youth dance classes this spring, April 21 through June 9, at Lane Community College Florence Campus.

"Creative Movement" will be held Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon, and is for ages 2 1/2 to 5.

Children will explore rhythm, musical genres, floor patterns, animal movements, levels and tempo, as well as learn the basic arm and foot positions and some basic steps from ballet.

This class is focused on imagination and fun.

Participants must be potty trained unless parent/guardian is willing to stay and assist.

"Jazz/Lyrical" is for ages 6 and older, and will be held Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. Students will participate in warm-ups and isolation body exercises set to contemporary music, followed by a variety of jazz and lyrical combination



COURTESY PHOTO

Melanie Heard

work both in the center and across the floor.

This class will be fast paced and fun, with focus on technique and expression.

"Dance for Musical Theatre" is a great

class for teens, although Heard will take kids as young as 8 years old.

This class will be offered on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:20 p.m. Students will participate in warm-ups and isolation body exercises, followed by complicated and creative musical theatre choreography from a variety of styles and Broadway shows.

For all classes, proper dance attire and jazz or ballet shoes are required.

Heard has been teaching kids how to dance for more than 20 years. She studied professional ballet with the Houston, Joffrey and Kirov Ballet Schools, and is well versed in tap, jazz, character, swing, salsa, lyrical/modern, and many other forms of dance.

"Dance is a great way for young men and ladies of all ages to learn about their bodies and to expand their creativity," says Heard, who stresses that she is purposely offering classes for various ages, including teens that might be interested.

She also particularly encourages young men and boys to sign up.

"Dance is an incredibly athletic activi-

ty" says Heard. "It's not just for girls. Some of the most amazing athletes, including many professional football players, have studied dance to improve their stamina and agility."

The classes will be custom tailored to the ages and abilities of the kids who sign up.

"Come give it a try. You might surprise yourself," says Heard.

Class sessions are \$56, which breaks down to only \$7 per class.

Limited financial need based scholarships may be available, through a partnership with Siuslaw School District's Twilight Program (for Jazz/Lyrical and Dance for Musical Theatre classes only).

Ask for information.

For more information, or to enroll your child, contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641 or email crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com. You can also visit www.crowkids.com for a downloadable application.

Space is limited, and pre-enrollment is strongly recommended.

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