

Fall/08 – The year begins with promise with the first TriArt Festival at the Warner Grand in San Pedro. We begin residencies, classes, performances, and projects at Barrett, Liggett, 1st Street, Oakwood, Palms, and Lockwood Avenue Elementary. Students from Charles Kim, Loyola Village Arts Magnate, and Pacoima Arts Magnate are bussed in to our November Dance At the Stone House performances at the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center.

12/08- LAUSD freezes all activity for the ACPN partners. We endorse a petition Internet site, and start making advocacy calls.

1/09- Four of our dancers and I travel to the International Performing Arts Festival for Youth conference in Cleveland for a spotlight of "The Patchwork Girl of Oz". I spend much of my time there on the phone and Internet with representatives from the state, county, and city to see what can be done about the contract freezing. The remainder of it and the PO's in progress represent 1/2 of all our earned income this season.

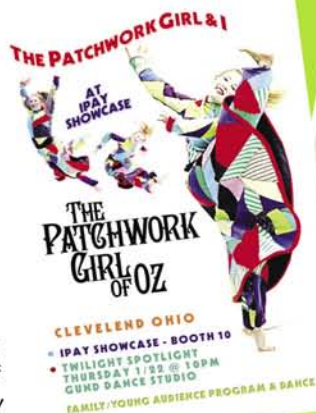
2/09- Our first performance presented by the Cultural Arts Dept of the City of Fontana at the Steelworkers Auditorium is a great success. From a letter from Nathan Hunt, Cultural Arts Coordinator: "The professionalism of your organization, from the booking arrangements through the skilled dancers, truly made hosting you in our community a joy, ease, and entertaining experience for all audience members and staff. The unique, talented and energetic performance really engaged the audience and gave them something to go home and talk about.... by far the best performing arts experience that we have had in the Steelworkers' Auditorium to date. It served as a high quality performing arts exposure to our community members that may not have any other way to experience such an event."

3/09- I present to the LAUSD Board of Education at one of their meetings about the successes of the arts program and the history of our own programming in the district for almost 30 years. Despite our efforts, which included multiple emails to the Board and the Superintendent, nothing could change the way the winds were blowing. ALL remaining categorical arts funds went to pay off the district's other expenses. Although more than 1,300 signed the Arts for LA petition that went up in December it didn't get much press or move the superintendent or school board, but the personal expressions of so many of the importance of the work that many of us do and that the arts do in

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

LANDMARK DATES
GOOD&BAD

SINCE OUR LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER



Left: Postcard Design by Kristi Mathias, The Patchwork Girl of Oz photos by Sallie DeEtte Mackie

Above Right: Postcard Design by Kristi Mathias, Photos by Louise Reichlin.

Right: Orange County Museum of Art by Kelly Bishop. Easter performance.

Below Right: photo of Tennis Dances performed in San Luis Obispo by Louise Reichlin



TEACHERS & SCHOOLS & PARENTS

We have brought California Standards based dance programs to thousands of students every year, and with the decreased arts money for education, it has been much more difficult to maintain this. We are doing fund raising, and recently donated our interactive Dance At the Stone House to students from three LAUSD schools – King, Stonehurst, and Rockdale Elementary. Some of their photos are on our cover! If you can find the funds from Title I, it is allowed and mandated by the Federal Government that these funds be used for the arts, and the state of CA says they should be used for supplementary activities which include standards based programs such as ours. If your school has a supportive PTA, please tell them about us. In our timeline you will see that we just returned from our 1st ever mini school tour in San Luis Obispo, where the parents often make the choices and raise the funds. Can we get that happening to a greater extent in LA County?

creating a connection with the world and how to succeed in multiple areas for young people reinforced that what we do with our art is a legitimate way of life. Sometimes it's hard to remember that with the devaluation of art in our culture.

4/09 – A grant from the Culver City Arts Grant Program & Sony Pictures Entertainment supports our new production of The Better to Bite You With at the Jazz Bakery. Comments from surveys

from our audience: "The kids in the audience from 3 year olds to teens were all laughing and engaged the whole time!" and from the many adults in the audience, "The interaction and photos were really cool",

"great music and dance along with a good storyline" and "great program for kids and for us". Some of the favorite parts were how we incorporated photos of everyone's teeth taken in the lobby before they entered the theatre into live media for the final dance, the amazing masks and the dance itself that went with it, and ALL of the individual dances.

4/09- The Orange County Museum of Art presents us on Easter. A letter from Kelly Bishop, Education and Public

Programs Coordinator includes "Thank you so much for the fantastic performance you and your team gave... It's a joy to have your group perform and I wish you much success!"

4/09- We perform selections from The Tennis Dances as part of Lula Washington's celebration of National Dance Week in their beautiful studios, sharing the program with her company, Danza Floricanto/USA, and Viver Brasil.

